SUICIDE

The Problem

Nationally, suicide is the 11th leading cause of death among Americans. Arkansas is ranked 17th in the country for suicide – an average of 368 Arkansans take their own life each year.

The Numbers

- Men make up the majority of suicides at 81 percent. Men commit suicide at a rate almost five times higher then women.
- White, non-hispanics account for 92 percent of suicide deaths.
- From 2003-2007, suicide by firearm was the second leading cause of death for all ages.
- Although only 12 percent of the national population, people 65 and older accounted for 16 percent of suicide deaths in 2004.
- In Arkansas, suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15-24 year olds, the fourth leading cause for 35-44 year olds and the fifth leading cause for 10-14 year olds.
- From 1999-2005, 30-49 year olds in Arkansas had the highest suicide rates at 40 percent.
- In Arkansas, firearms are the most commonly used method for attempting suicide.
- Statewide there are a total of 2,057 suicide attempts a year, which average a cost of $7,822 a case.

Risk Factors

- Previous suicide attempts.
- History of depression or other mental illness.
- Alcohol or drug abuse.
- Family history of suicide or violence.
- Physical illness.
- Feeling alone.
- Go to www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/ to find more risk factors.

Getting Help

Please find help if you or someone you know is depressed or having suicidal thoughts.

- Arkansas Crisis Center: (888) 274-7472
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: (800) 273-TALK (8255)

In Cooperation With:

Statewide Injury Prevention Program

(501) 364-3400 or (866) 611-3445 • www.archildrens.org/injury_prevention

Sources: Center for Disease Control and Prevention